REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

OULTON BROAD

Urban District Council

FOR THE YEAR

1916

BY

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66

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TO THE

Oulton Broad Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting you with my Annual Report for the year 1916.

I have condensed the report for this year and only left in the essential figures, most of the tables have been left out which prevents comparison with previous years, but those figures can be got in a previous report.

The Civil population for 1916 is estimated at 3,972, this will be used for the death rate and other rates except the birth rate which is calculated on a population of 4,322.

Birth Rate.

103 Births (55 males and 48 females) were registered as having taken place in the district during 1916.

This gives a Birth rate of 23·8 per 1,000 which is a slight rise on last year.

The Birth rate for England and Wales for 1916 was 21·6 per 1,000.

Of those 103 Births, 3 males and 1 female were illegitimate, giving an illegitimate birth rate of 0·92 per 1,000 which is double the number last year.

The percentage of illegitimate births to the total births was 3·88.

Death Rate.

50 deaths were registered in the district during the year, but two have to be deducted as belonging to other districts and 19 residents who died in other districts have to be added, giving a nett total of 67 with a Death rate of 16·9 per 1,000.

The Death rate for England and Wales for 1916 was 14 per 1,000.

15 deaths were in infants under 1 year age.

12 ,, ,, due to Zymotic Diseases.

3 ,, ,, ,, ,, Phthisis and other Tubercular diseases.

1 death was uncertified.

4 deaths were due to Cancer.

7 deaths of residents were subjects for inquests, 5 of which took place outside the district.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

15 deaths (10 males and 5 females) took place in children under 1 year of age, giving a heavy Infantile Mortality Rate of 145·6 per 1,000 births.

The rate for England and Wales for 1916 was 91 per 1000

Two of those deaths were in illegitimate children.

Three were due to Measles and 1 to Membranous Croup.

Notification of Births.

During 1916, 98 births were notified, of those 4 ought to have been notified elsewhere and 4 were stillborn, leaving 90 nett, besides those there were 15 registered but not notified, the percentage of non-notified births being 15·4.

Zymotic Death Rate.

12 deaths were due to Zymotic diseases, which is much in excess of previous years, giving a death rate of 3·02.

8 were due to Diphtheria with a Death rate of 2·01.
3 ,, ,, ,, Whooping Cough ,, ,, ,, 0·75.
1 was ,, ,, Measles ,, ,, ,, 0·25.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

56 notifications were received under this act during the year consisting of 16 Scarlet Fever.
40 Diphtheria.

At the beginning of the year an Order came into force making Measles and German Measles also notifiable and during the year 24 cases of Measles and 1 of German Measles were notified.

The 16 cases of Scarlet Fever were scattered over 7 months of the year, the largest number being in February when there were 5.

The Diphtheria cases were much more serious and resulted in 8 deaths. The outbreak started at the end of January and seemed to get a good hold by spreading through school contact. Out of 18 families affected 16 had some connection with one school, this suggests a mild case going to school and spreading the disease. The school was closed on 2nd February and the maximum number of cases occurred in the 2nd week of February, namely, 9, there were 7 in the 3rd week and 5 in the last week.

TABLE SHOWING DISEASES AND NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1916.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Deaths from Diphtheria.
January	—	4	2
February	5	26	4
March	1	1	—
April	3	5	2
May	3	1	—
June	1	1	—
July	2	—	—
August	—	—	—
September	—	—	—
October	—	—	—
November	—	1	—
December	1	1	—

The November case of Diphtheria was a military one, a soldier who was taken ill the day he came home on leave, and most likely was infected before he arrived.

It is satisfactory to note this was the only military case notified.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations. 1912.

Under the Regulations 5 notifications of Phthisis were received, all were visited and supplied with disinfectants.

Two houses were disinfected after Phthisis.

Water Supply.

During the year three houses have been connected to the public water supply, bringing the total number connected up to 407.

Drainage.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of cesspools emptied, 3,710 as against 3,891 last year. It is to be hoped that this is due to economy in the use of water.

7 new cesspools have been built during the year.

The present system of sewage disposal has not improved under war conditions, complaints that cesspools have not been emptied being frequent and there is no doubt that many people are being impressed by the urgent necessity of a water carriage system.

Scavenging.

Twenty new dustbins have been provided to replace unsuitable or defective receptacles.

1,960 loads of house refuse have been removed during the year, a slight decrease on 1915 when 2,007 loads were removed ; again I hope that this is due to more refuse being burnt at home and waste paper being collected for useful purposes.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Routine inspections under this Act have been postponed for the present unless there is something seriously wrong as there is great difficulty in getting labour and materials now, which is looked upon as sufficient excuse for not carrying out the work.

During the year plans for 5 dwelling houses have been passed.

Oulton Joint Isolation Hospital.

On January 1st, there were 4 cases in Hospital from 1915, all were Scarlet Fever, 3 from the Rural District and 1 from the Urban.

During the year 1916, 59 cases were admitted so the actual number treated was 63.

The total number discharged was 49 and there were 3 deaths during the year, and at the end of 1916 there were 11 cases in Hospital, 3 Scarlet Fever and 8 Diphtheria.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever admitted during the year.

Of the 59 cases admitted, 24 were from the Rural District, 34 from the Urban District and 1 case of Diphtheria was one of the Staff.

The 24 cases from the Rural District were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	10
Diphtheria	14

The 34 cases from the Urban District were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	25

The Scarlet Fever cases had 1,005 days maintenance, those from the Rural District 563 days and those from the Urban District 442 days.

The Diptheria cases had 1,921 days maintenance, those from the Rural District 773 days and those from the Urban District 1,148 days.

The total number of days maintenace of patients was 2926, Rural 1,336, Urban 1,590.

Average number of patients 7·99, Rural 3·65, Urban 4·34.

I have to thank all the Officials with whom I have come in contact for the kindness and courtesy they have shown in assisting me.

I am,

Carlton Cottage,
Oulton Broad,
Suffolk.

Your obedient Servant,
LAURENCE GIBSON,
Medical Officer of Health

Oulton Broad Urban District Council.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the Year, 1916.

PUBLIC HEALTH, &c. ACT.

Houses and premises inspected	1517
Houses and premises inspected in detail (house to house)	1051
Intimation notices served	26
Statutory ,, ,, ...	9
Statutory ,, ,, to provide suitable water supply	0
Statutory ,, ,, to provide dust bins	1
Statutory ,, ,, to abate nuisance, P.H.A. 1875	5
Statutory ,, ,, under Housing & Town Planning &c. Act, 1909, Sec. 15 (3) to execute works	3
Nuisances discovered	85
Complaints received	8
Summonses heard before Justices	0
Houses connected to public water supply	3
New houses erected	5
New factory erected	1
New buildings erected (other than dwelling houses) ...	5
Plans passed by Council	17
New cesspools provided	7
Military billets inspected	150
Number of houses now connected to public water supply	407
Number of Water closets	84

Nuisances Dealt With.

Privies and middens converted into pail closets ...	2
Privies (pails), privies (no pails), and middens converted into water closets	3
Insanitary refuse bins abolished...	10

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